

loss of confidence in British rule. Thus, the Dutch farmers, Boers, became so thoroughly dissatisfied that treks became common.

One great trek was in 1836-7, to Natal, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal. Nominally those who trekked to the Transvaal were amenable to British law, but in practice were left to themselves. Not so those who went to Natal. After various encounters and negotiations the question was settled by the battle of Boomplatz, near Bloemfontein, in 1848. This battle was followed by the proclamation of British sovereignty over the country between the Orange River and the Vaal River—the present Orange Free State. But the Home Government, in the person of Lord Grey, did not approve of what Sir Harry Smith had done in this proclamation. There had long been two parties at Home on the subject of these treks; the one who said the Empire was too large, the other who said that these trekkers could not be allowed to throw off their allegiance. The former was in the ascendant at the British victory of Boomplatz, and Lord Grey announced that the British sovereignty over the Orange Free State could not be maintained. These memorable words were not lost on the Dutch.

The trouble with those hardy mountaineers, the Basutos, the Highlanders of South Africa, had tried the power of England, and the Transvaal Boers took advantage thereof to ask for the recognition of their status. The result was the Sand River Convention, signed in 1852, acknowledging the independence of the Transvaal, of which one necessary condition, *inter alia*, was that no slavery should be practised or condoned. Of course, this condition has never been kept. After the Transvaal Boers had got their independence, the Orange Free State Boers, mindful of Lord Grey's utterance, asked for their independence. The Basuto trouble was not settled. The Transvaal Boers joined their advocacy with the Orange Free State Boers, and the Orange Free State was granted that

independence which it has since maintained. But the Basuto difficulty was left unsettled. The Orange Free State Boers found themselves with these warriors on their borders who now had a treaty with England. Thus, they were left as a thorn in their side—played off by England against them in a measure.

After an experience of six years, the Orange Free State Boers found these troublesome neighbours unprofitable, and so they asked, in 1858, for re-union with Cape Colony. Sir George Grey was then Governor of the Cape. The Home Government consulted him on the whole South African problem, and Sir George advised in these memorable words a scheme which would have made a federated South Africa: "The Constitution of New Zealand embodies the model which I should propose for adoption." [Provincial Councils, under a central Legislature, were then the New Zealand rule.] "And that form of Government could be easily altered so as to suit in every particular the circumstances of South Africa." But Sir George was half a century in advance of the English ideas, and he was re-called. Prior to leaving he wrote: "I fear the opportunity of forming such a Federation has now gone for ever." In 1877, Lord Carnarvon secured the passage of an enabling Act to federate such territories in South Africa as might, in five years, be willing to federate. The time had past. Sir Bartle Frere might have accomplished the federation, for he was then Governor, but, as usual, his views were too South African—that is, too correct and right for the Home Government—and, the victim of circumstances, he was re-called. So three Federators have been and gone, and the South African Problem has led us into war at the present moment, with a Governor capable of dealing with the question, who finds himself hampered by a Cape Ministry, none too loyal, and whom the proclamation of martial law may send to the Shades by the Tarpeian Rock. Let Sir Alfred Milner be an Imperial Dictator—a second Lord Cromer or Lord Kitchener—with full